

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-10 SAB-01 IO-10 /087 W

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: SCHLESINGER'S STATEMENT

WHILE THE SAUDI MEDIA HAVE NOT INITIATED ANY COMMENT, THEY HAVE NEVERTHELESS REPRODUCED COMMENTS BY OTHER ARAB NEWSPAPERS, SPECIFICALLY, JORDANIAN AND LEBANESE. FOLLOWING ARE EXTRACTS FROM REPORTS APPEARING IN SAUDI NEWSPAPERS.

AL-MADINA OF 5/20/75

HEADING: "JORDANIAN AND LEBANESE PAPERS CONDEMN SCHLESINGER'S DECLARATION."

"THE DECLARATIONS ARE A THREAT DIRECTED AT THE ARABS, AND ARE (I.E. AMOUNT TO) AN AGGRESSIVE POLICY TOWARDS THEM (THE ARABS)."

IN THE ABOVE VEIN, AL MADINA QUOTES THE FOLLOWING PAPERS:

AL-RAI (JORDAN: "THESE STATEMENTS ARE VERY AMAZING COMING, AS THEY DO, AT A TIME WHEN PRES. FORD CRITICIZED ISRAEL'S INTRASIGENCE, WHEN KISSINGER

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BLAMED ISRAEL FOR THE FAILURE OF HIS MISSION, AND

A FEW DAYS BEFORE THE FORD-SADAT MEETINGS."

THE PAPER ADDED THAT THESE THREATS "DO NOT AT ALL
SERVE THE CAUSE OF PEACE BUT, INSTEAD, ENCOURAGE ISRAEL'S
ADAMANCE." THE PAPER ALSO SAID "WE WERE UNDER THE
IMPRESSION THAT THE OFFICIALS OF THE AMERICAN DEPT OF
DEFENSE WERE NO LONGER DESIROUS OF ENTERING NEW CRISES*"

THE BEIRUT PRESS:

AL-HAYAT - (HEAVILY SAG SUBSIDIZED): "IT IS
INCONVEIVABLE THAT THE DEFENSE MINISTER OF A STATE WHICH
ASSERTS ITS INTEREST IN (INTERNATIONAL) DETENTE WOULD DIRECT
SUCH INSOLENCIE (AT US)."

AL-LIWA:

"HAS AMERICA LOST HER SENSES?

"SCHLESINGER'S DECLARATIONS ARE CONDUCIVE TO
BELIEVING THAT THE AMERICANS HAVE BECOME THE CAPTIVES
OF HALUCINATIONS RESULTING FROM THE MAYAGUEZ INCIDENT.

"THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY HAD BELIEVED THAT THE
U.S. WOULD BENEFIT FROM ITS DEFEAT IN INDO-CHINA AND
WOULD FOLLOW THE PATH OF WISDOM AND REASONABLENESS.
BUT THE REVERSE IS OBVIOUSLY THE CASE...THE DEFEAT IN
INDO-CHINA, IT SEEMS, HAS MADE AMERICA LOSE HER COMPOSURE
AND THE REMAINDER OF HER REASON."

UJAZ 5/20/75 (SAUDI ARABIA)

SUMMARIZED THE IMPRESSIONS MENTIONED ABOVE.

AL-NADWA SAUDI ARABIA QUOTED KNOWLEDGEABLE
SOURCES IN CAIRO AS DESCRIBING "SCHLESINGER'S WARNING"
(SIC) AS IMPROPER AND ILL-TIMED, THE LATTER SINCE IT
COMES "ON THE EVE OF THE SADAT-FORD MEETING."
AKINS

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